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ZOÖLOGY.

Animal Classification.[1] — Teachers of elementary zoölogy but more particularly students of this subject are often given to crave a simple classification of animals, and to fill this want Professor Wilder has prepared a synopsis of the chief animal groups. The author has disarmed criticism by his avowal that schemes of this nature are mainly personal, but even in such outlines it is fair to expect consistency and freedom from obvious error. Presumably the part on vertebrates should be best written and yet by a strange coincidence the Vertebrata (p. 39) is the only type to which no general definition is given, and the classes of its gnathostome division are numbered one to six with the omission of four. There is no reason to suppose that the beginner would ever rightly determine, by the artificial key at the end of the book, the groups to which such forms as the bilateral sea-urchins and holothurians belong, for by the tables these must come under " Structure radiate." The statement that follows this, " Parts in 2s " would be a stumbling block to any one who knew what bilaterality was. On the whole this key is so very artificial that it is best used when one knows beforehand where the animal belongs. Defects of the kind pointed out, while of no great importance to the advanced student, are serious matters with the beginner, and render the tables much less useful than they should be.

Hertwig's Manual of Zoölogy.[2]— It is a remarkable fact that Hertwig's Lehrbuch, the best German elementary text-book in zoölogy, has been until recently accessible to the English-reading student only through a partial and imperfect translation. Kingsley's [2] new edition in English based on the fifth German edition will therefore be welcomed by many. A cursory examination of the new volume shows that the American edition is likely to repeat the success of its German forerunner. The translating is remarkably well done and the general form of the book excellent. Here and there exception may be taken to the course chosen by the translator. It would have been better to have used exclusively the English term œcology, which is coming to have a definite meaning, rather than the two terms œcology and biology (pp. 4 and 57), which, though synonyms in German, are far from equivalents in English. The choice of the form for proper names, if not of great importance, would lead in English rather to Vesalius than Vesal (p. 12), a matter in which the reader is given his choice with Galen and Galenius (p. 12). In discussing animal temperature poikilothermous, idiothermous and homoiothermous are used without good reason, so far as we know, for the more usual pœcilothermal, idiothermal, and homothermal. The fact that the volume in its several editions has passed from one century to another has led to some confusion which should have been cleared up in editing; thus while we are correctly told (p. 17) that the cell theory is of the "last century" and that the name Protozoa was given "in the century just closed" (p. 186), the "*Origin of Species*" is described (p. 24) as a "scientific work of this century." The proofreading has been unusually close; on page 13, line 28, *unbiassed* is preceded by a useless dash and on page 435 Cumbarus stands for Cambarus. The presswork and illustrations are as a rule good, though many of the newly introduced, original figures, particularly the half-tones, are too faintly printed. The defects that have been pointed out are insignificant compared with the good qualities of the volume, which deserves immediate acceptance as the best general text-book of zoölogy for the majority of American colleges.

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[1] Wilder, H. H. *A Synopsis of Animal Classification.* New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1902. 8vo. 57 pp.

[2] Hertwig, R. *A Manual of Zoölogy.* Translated and Edited by J. S. Kingsley, from the Fifth German Edition. New York. Henry Holt & Company, 1902, 8vo., xii + 704 pp., 672 text illustrations.

The Neurone Theory and its Adherents.[1] — Since the promulgation of the doctrine of the neurone by Waldeyer in 1891 numerous general estimates of this theory have been advanced by almost all the more noted workers in neurology. These expressions of opinion have almost invariably come from advocates of the theory and have been the means of introducing at most only slight modifications of the general doctrine. Up to the present no single considerable publication has been devoted to a thorough review of the body of evidence brought forward by the neuronists and to a radical and well directed attack on their position. Nissl's *Neuronenlehre* is such a publication.

The first chapter of this work takes up briefly Waldeyer's original conception of the neurone and the modifications that during the last ten years this has undergone. In deciding what the essentials of the neurone theory are Nissl makes one of the clearest and most

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[1] Nissl, F. *Die Neuronenlehre und ihre Anhänger. Ein Beitrag zur Lösung des Problems der Berziehungen zwischen Nervenzellen, Faser und Grau.* Jena, Fischer, 1903, 8vo., vi + 478 pp., 2 Taf.